

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L WELLINGTON 01357

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EO:11652:GDS
TAGS: OVIP (MONDALE, WALTER F.), NZ
SUBJECT: VICE PRESIDENT'S VISIT: TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

REF: STATE 063017

1. WITH MOST KEY OFFICERS CURRENTLY ACCOMPANYING FORMIN TALBOYS ON HIS VISIT TO AUSTRALIA, THE GNZ HAS NOT YET REACHED ANY FIRM DECISIONS ON TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION WITH THE VICE PRESIDENT. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA) IS CONVENING AN INTERAGENCY MEETING ON MARCH 21 TO DEFINE SUGGESTED TOPICS AND HAS PROMISED TO KEEP US INFORMED. IN THE MEANTIME, WE HAVE GLEANED THE FOLLOWING FROM CONVERSATIONS WITH MFA AND TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPT OFFICERS.

2. DESPITE ANY INCLINATION ON THE US SIDE TO DISCUSS TRADE ISSUES IN ONLY GENERAL TERMS, THE CONSENSUS IN MFA IS THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT WILL CARRY AWAY ONLY ONE OR TWO SALIENT IMPRESSIONS FROM EACH STOP ON HIS FIVE-NATION TRIP AND, FOR NEW ZEALAND, THIS MEANS THAT THE TOPIC OF MARKET ACCESS, BILATERALLY AND MULTILATERALLY, IS HIGHEST ON THEIR LIST.

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3. MFA'S INITIAL THINKING IS TO SUGGEST THAT THE VICE PRESIDENT TAKE THE LEAD IN DISCUSSING HUMAN RIGHTS, THE PANAMA CANAL, AND THE "GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTIONISM." THEY TENTATIVELY HAVE IN MIND THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS TO BE RAISED BY THE NZ SIDE: (A) ANZUS AND DEFENSE, INCLUDING NPW'S; (B) LAW OF THE

SEA AND 200-MILE ZONES, AND (C) THE SOUTH PACIFIC AND ANTARCTICA. THEY HAVE NO SPECIFIC SUGGESTIONS ON FOOD OR ENERGY, BUT PROMISED TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK AT THESE SUBJECTS AND INFORM US.

4. TRADE AND INDUSTRY DEPT OFFICERS WANT TO PUT FORWARD SOME OF NZ'S MARKET ACCESS CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY CONCESSIONARY SALES OF NFDM BY THE US TO POTENTIAL BUYERS OF NZ MILK POWDER AND PROPOSALS BY USDA FOR TIGHTER MEAT LABELING AND WEIGHT TOLERANCE REGULATIONS.

5. OBVIOUSLY, IF THE NZ STRATEGY IS TO SPEND MOST TIME ON MARKET ACCESS PROBLEMS, THESE LISTS WILL HAVE TO BE PARED. THE "GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL PROTECTIONISM" TOPIC, OF COURSE, IS THEIR ENTREE TO A DISCUSSION OF US RESTRICTIONS ON DAIRY PRODUCTS AND BEEF IMPORTS AS WELL AS TO WHAT WE MIGHT BE ABLE TO DO COOPERATIVELY VIS-A-VIS JAPAN AND IN THE MTN.

6. WE WILL PROVIDE FURTHER COMMENTS AND ADDITIONAL SUGGESTIONS AS SOON AS MORE PRECISE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. SELDEN

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